

Reference BCA-R

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER ETHICS

In order to fulfill its duty under state law to provide education to pupils within the District, the Board adopts the following expectations for each of its members.

AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY OATH OF OFFICE, I WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION BY STRIVING TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS:

1. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings, insofar as possible, and become informed concerning issues to be considered at those meetings.
2. Understand that the Board, as governing body, does not manage the District, but rather sets the broad goals and standards for the District by way of policies adopted by a quorum of the Board at proper meetings under the Right-to-Know law.
3. Be informed about current educational issues through individual study and through information, such as those sponsored by the state.
4. Make decisions and take votes based upon the available facts, the full deliberation of the Board, and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender or subordinate that judgement to any individual or special interest group.
5. Work respectfully with other Board members by encouraging the free expression of differing opinions and ideas. Display and demonstrate courtesy and decorum toward fellow Board members at all public meetings and in all public statements.
6. Seek opportunities for the Board to establish systematic communication channels with students, staff, and members of the community.
7. Recognize that as a general principle, the District and its students benefit when Board decisions, which have been made following consideration of all sides and vote of a quorum, receive the subsequent support of the whole Board, whenever practicable. Each board member has a right to their opinion and how they vote.
8. Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law or is received in confidence or non-public session.
9. Recognize that individual Board members are without authority to act relative to School District business, and that I may not individually commit the Board to any action except as specifically designated to do so by Board action.
10. Understand the chain of command and refer problems or complaints to the proper administrative office per applicable Board of Education policies.
11. Work with the other Board members to establish effective Board policies, and foster a relationship with the District Administration toward the effective implementation of those policies.

- 12. Communicate to the Superintendent and to the Board (only as consistent with the Right-to-Know law) expressions of public reaction to Board programs, policies and other Board actions.
- 13. Present personal criticisms concerning District operations, staff, etc. to the Superintendent, not to District staff, the public, or unnecessarily at a Board meeting.
- 14. Establish policies and protocols for systematic communications with students, staff, and members of the community. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.

Legal References:

189:1-a "Duty to Provide Education"; and RSA 189:1 "Days of School"

***Legal References Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

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